

# Dispatch

A I R L I F T

Inside

- Justice Files / 3
- Commentary / 8
- Palm Pilots / 11
- Air Expo 5K / 15

Vol. 40, No. 11

437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, March 23, 2001

## 437 CS named best in Air Force

The 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron was named the Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award winner for 2000.

"The communications-electronics maintenance professionals of the 437 CS were pivotal players in Team Charleston's amazing success for FY 00," said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Richard Bentley, 437 CS Help Desk officer in charge. "Their remarkable year was a direct reflection of the pride, professionalism and passion they exhibit every day."

From October 1999 to September 2000, the unit had a 98.5 percent cumulative system uptime. Squadron personnel solved potential Year 2000 problems on Charleston AFB.

"Careful preparation and thorough contingency planning were the keys to experiencing zero mission-related failures during the Jan. 1 rollover and again during the Feb. 29 Leap-Year event," Bentley said.

The personnel procured and installed more than \$292,000 of new base network infrastructure, oversaw the installation of the 437<sup>th</sup>

Airlift Wing Command Post's new Air Mobility Advanced Console System and procured a Mobile Microwave Landing System that improved training capability on the main runway.

Members of the communications squadron managed a \$1.2 million maintenance budget, including a \$673,000 telephone maintenance contract and a \$378,000 telephone and switchboard operations contract. Technicians saved Air Force resources, including repairing expensive security system monitors and control keyboards that were normally deemed disposable.

In addition, they improved the quality of base communication services without spending additional local funds by redistributing items purchased for Y2K to base agencies in support of emergency service radio coverage.

Due to limited manpower, the squadron utilized its personnel in various positions. Ground-radio personnel went beyond their duty description by learning to oper-

See CS, page 3



Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Stafford

### Touring the bird

Lt. Col. Red Millander (left), 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron commander, provides a tour of the C-17 to British Defense Secretary Geoffrey Hoon (center), and Davis Oliver (right), U.S. Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense, Tuesday at Andrews AFB, Md. Hoon toured the C-17 Globemaster III in preparation for the May arrival of the aircraft in the United Kingdom. The RAF No. 99 Squadron will be the first-ever non-U.S. squadron to maintain and operate the C-17 at RAF Brize-Norton, England.

## Charleston AFB to implement new MILMOD personnel system

*New system will allow MPF to make nearly instantaneous changes to personnel data*

By Senior Airman Donald Church  
437 AW Public Affairs

Personnel in the 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron will soon be able to make changes instantly to personnel data with the Air Force Military Personnel Data System Modernization.

The MILMOD system will eventually replace the current personnel data system in place since the early 1970s, according to Capt. Robin McKinley, 437 MSS military personnel flight commander. Only military

personnel flights will have direct access to the system with lower units to gain the capabilities later on.

"The new system encompasses what was before three other databases," said Master Sgt. Paula Carter, 437 MSS superintendent of personnel systems management. "The way it is currently set up has a database at the base level, the Major Command level and at Headquarters Air Force. With MILMOD these databases will merge to allow for better capability."

Currently, base units that request

personnel information such as decorations, enlisted performance report updates and other changes to personnel information files have their requests processed through the Base Level Military Personnel Data System according to McKinley. After MILMOD is brought online, units will still use the current PC-III update program to make requests and changes, but 437 MSS personnel will work with MILMOD.

"MILMOD represents a totally new way for my career field to do its job," said Carter. "We are going from a

system designed 30 years ago with early mainframe computer programming languages such as COBOL, to a client-server system designed by Oracle. The cryptic text commands are being replaced with a point-and-click interface as intuitive to use as any other modern computer program."

Extensive testing and training on MILMOD has been ongoing for several months now by MSS personnel, said Carter. They have also been

See MILMOD, page 3

## IN THE NEWS

## Opportunities available for enlisted aviators with SRB, CEFIP

By Staff Sgt. Sonny Cohrs  
6AMW Public Affairs

For enlisted members looking to spread their wings, there are many opportunities to become fliers without sitting in the cockpit.

Enlisted men and women are responsible for the "business end" of aircraft such as the KC-135 Stratotanker and the C-17 Globemaster III, which provide refueling and heavy airlift for America's Air Force. Some of the enlisted aviator positions include boom operators, loadmasters, flight engineers and flight attendants.

To help encourage these aviators to stay in the Air Force, programs were created, such as the selective reenlistment bonus and the career enlisted-flier incentive pay program, which began in October 1999.

The CEFIP program was developed to compensate career-enlisted aviators for the hazardous nature of their job as well as to provide an incentive to attract individu-

als to aviation specialties and retain them throughout their career.

The program enables military members in specific career enlisted aviator specialties, designated by the service secretary, to receive continuous flight-incentive pay as long as they meet prescribed operational flying requirements. CEFIP is paid in place of certain other money, such as hazardous duty incentive pay and special duty assignment pay.

Unlike HDIP and SDAP, the new incentive pay continues when a member is assigned to non-flying duties. Ultimately, this provides enlisted fliers with increased compensation over the course of a career.

For fliers who have made a career out of the Air Force, programs such as the CEFIP are an added bonus to a job they love to do.

"I like that even though you're in a squadron, while you're on the airplane you're in control of the situation," said Tech. Sgt.

Fredrick Fox, 15<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron loadmaster. "You also get to know the other services and get a broader picture of how we all work together." Prior to switching to the C-17, Fox flew as a standardization and evaluation loadmaster on the C-141B Starlifter where he often worked closely with Army jumpmasters and paratroopers.

Fox, a loadmaster throughout his 17-year career, followed in the steps of his father, also a loadmaster, who retired as a chief master sergeant after 29 years of service. Like his father, he enjoys the travel and different opportunities enlisted aviators experience every day.

"I've been to a lot of places, and I've seen a lot of things. To be able to travel and get paid is great," he said. "I couldn't think of another job in the Air Force that I'd like to do."

With the missions Charleston AFB aircrews endure, Fox spends around 180 days a year on temporary duty. Mis-

sions may include anything from local training flights to three-week missions on either the Pacific or European Strategic Intra-theater Deployments carrying supplies to deployed troops across the globe.

"The TDYs can be sporadic," Fox said. "Sometimes, you don't know when the next mission will come up and you have to be really flexible. Things could always change while you're out in the system."

Fox said those considering retraining should really weigh the pros and cons of becoming a flier. Commitments to family and off-duty education are two important factors to weigh before vying for a set of wings. Travel and flight pay incentives are some of the perks to the job, but becoming a flier is a definite change of lifestyle.

Tech. Sgt. Carl Helbig, 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group loadmaster, said he believes he has the best job in the Air Force.

"Even as an airman, a

loadmaster is in a supervisory role," Helbig said. "We have more freedom and responsibilities than many others in the Air Force. There is so much progression that it never gets stagnant."

For those looking to retrain into an enlisted aviator career field, various opportunities are available. "An airman who comes in as a flier can start making a difference right away," Helbig added.

The overall objective of the retraining program is to balance the career force of each Air Force Specialty Code as needed, according to Air Force Personnel Center officials. Additionally, the retraining programs allow individual airmen a choice of career fields from which to pursue an Air Force career and provide a method to return airmen disqualified from their current AFSC to a productive status.

For more information, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil).

## CAFB's Youth Sports Program voted best in state

By Brian Rich  
437 SVS, marketing publicist

Charleston AFB's Youth Programs has long been a pioneer for youth sports in the area. On March 9, the program was recognized by the Boys and Girls Club of America as the best organization for sports, fitness and recreation in the state.

This win marks the fourth year in

a row that CAFB's Youth Programs has been presented with an "Honors Award for Program Excellence" by the Boys and Girls Club of America. Previous wins have been in the categories of "Character and Leadership Development," "Education and Career Development," "Best Organization Overall," and now "Sports, Fitness and Recreation."

"It's great to win such an award," said Edwin Jones, Youth Programs director. "It really speaks highly of the effort our staff puts into training and certifying our volunteers."

Youth Sport's volunteers are certified through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association in a three-hour class that teaches them how to coach a youth team. In addition to NYSCA training, all coaches are trained in child abuse prevention and recognition, positive youth guidance, as well as being certified in CPR and first aid.

"I feel we received this award for several reasons," Jones said. "One of which is our willingness to modify the game's rules so that skills development and fun are stressed rather than winning or losing."

CAFB is also blazing the youth sports trail with Micro Sports. Micro Sports

are just like regular youth sports, except the teams and playing areas are smaller. Smaller teams allow all members an opportunity to play, while the smaller playing fields give the youths the opportunity to focus on skills development rather than covering the wide expanse of a field.

"Another factor that probably contributed to our program being recognized is our Player and Parents Code of Ethics," said Jones.

The Code of Ethics is a simple list of guidelines everyone associated with youth sports must abide by. The code states all involved will conduct themselves in a manner that is best suited for everyone else, thus eliminating sore losers (or winners) and hot-headed parents.

In addition to winning on the local level, Youth Programs was recently named one of only three other organizations selected to compete for the national award in the same category. Winning on the national level would earn Youth Programs \$2,500 in prize money.

For children interested in experiencing this award-winning program first hand, there are several opportunities to get involved. Youth Programs offers an extensive list of sports, fitness and recreational activities for people to participate.

Last week, the 2001 Youth Basketball season came to an end with closing ceremonies held at the Fitness and Sports Center. At the ceremony all 193 participants, ranging

in ages from 5 to 17, received a medal of participation. While there, parents and players were asked to fill out evaluation forms regarding the basketball season. When the surveys were evaluated, 91 percent of parents and 90 percent of players enjoyed the season and will definitely be back next season.

"Now that the basketball season is over and was an overwhelming success, we will begin to change the focus to baseball," said John. "Although the registration deadline has already passed, we are still looking for coaches and other volunteers."

In addition to the various team-sporting programs offered by Youth Programs, year-round gymnastics, dance and karate classes are also offered. These classes offer CAFB youth the opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities they may otherwise not get to experience.

"There are many sporting opportunities for the youth of CAFB, all of which contribute greatly to the child's development," John said. "Sports not only provide an outlet for the seeming endless energy that children often display, but they also teach children some very important lessons like the importance of sportsmanship, how to follow rules and how to get along with their peers in a team environment."

For more information on youth sports or fitness and recreation activities, call the Youth Center at 963-5684.



Courtesy photo

A member of the Youth Baseball League tries to beat the ball home in a game last season.

# CAFB February Justice Files

By Staff Sgt. Nichelle Cunningham  
and Senior Airman Geoffery Gunn  
437 AW Paralegals

## Article 15 actions

An airman 1<sup>st</sup> class failed to maintain sufficient funds in her checking account and wrote a number of bad checks, totaling \$675.

**Punishment:** Suspended reduction to airman, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

An airman basic failed to obey an order to change his flight reservations to return to Charleston AFB from leave. He also made a false official statement stating his flights were delayed and then cancelled due to bad weather, when, in fact, the flights were on-time.

**Punishment:** 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A technical sergeant used his Nations Bank Government Visa card for non-official travel related expenses.

**Punishment:** Suspended reduction to staff sergeant, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A senior airman used his Nations Bank Government Visa card for non-official travel related expenses.

**Punishment:** Suspended reduction to airman 1<sup>st</sup> class, 21 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A senior airman was more than 90 days delinquent on his Nations Bank Government Visa card.

**Punishment:** Suspended reduction to airman 1<sup>st</sup> class, six days restriction to CAFB and six days extra duty.

An airman 1<sup>st</sup> class failed to pay his

military Star Card debt, totaling \$38.33.

**Punishment:** Suspended reduction to airman, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A master sergeant failed to properly manage and inventory the supplies in his section, and made two false official statements regarding the inventory.

**Punishment:** Reduction to technical sergeant, 45 days extra duty and a reprimand.

A master sergeant was driving under the influence of alcohol and failed to maintain a valid driver's license while operating a motor vehicle.

**Punishment:** Reduction to technical sergeant and a reprimand.

## Vacation action

An airman 1<sup>st</sup> class had the portion of her suspended Article 15 punishment vacated for failing to go.

## Remission

A staff sergeant had the portion of his suspended Article 15 punishment remitted for good behavior.

## Administrative discharges

An airman was discharged for a mental disorder. She was separated with an honorable discharge.

An airman was discharged for misconduct, specifically, commission of a serious offense. She was separated with a general discharge.

An airman 1<sup>st</sup> class was discharged for unsatisfactory performance. He was separated with an honorable discharge.

## CS

continued from page 1

ate slideshow and audio-video presentation equipment. They supported more than 200 audio-visual presentations, video teleconferences and public address events, including a visit by the Air Force Chief of Staff and the historic departure of Charleston's last C-141.

Outside of work, 437 CS personnel reached out in the community by serving as Boy Scout leaders, tutors, coaches, mentors and church leaders. In addition, they were leaders, supporters and key members of base organizations including the squadron Booster Club and Top 4, the base First Six, and the Company Grade Officers Council.

"Both deployed and at home, they set the highest standards and were continually recognized with letters of

appreciation, coins, medals and other awards," Bentley said.

Maj. Douglas Taylor, 437 CS commander, said it's a pleasure to be around professionals who are the best at what they do. He was happy to see such a fantastic performance and attitude recognized as the best in the Air Force.

"The key to winning any award is demonstrating superior performance results by working harder and smarter for the customer," said Taylor. "These folks have cultivated an atmosphere of excellence that made it easy to highlight their accomplishments. The CS maintenance troops take a lot of pride in their piece of the mission. They excel on the job by working together as a close-knit team." *(Information submitted by the 437 CS. Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith, 437 AW Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)*



Courtesyphoto

**Master Sgt. Michael David, 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, troubleshoots a connectivity problem in a system he is responsible for.**

## MILMOD

continued from page 1

provided with a copy of MILMOD in which to practice working with the new system while leaving the actual database untouched.

"It has been much easier for us to train ourselves with the new system by being allowed to actually use it without worrying about damaging actual personnel data," said Carter.

"Each week the training copy of the database is refreshed with the newest changes in actual personnel data. This way we see what different changes do in the sys-



tem to actual data."

The manner in which MILMOD works is completely different from the current system, according to Carter. The older BLMPs system required units to process changes to MSS personnel who then forwarded them up through the different databases. Once the data reached the Air Force database, it gradually filtered back down through the system until it came back to the base database. Often changes made by unit personnel would not become accessible for hours or even days after they were entered.

"The old system was not designed for being able to respond to requests for information quickly," said Carter. "What people didn't realize about the system is that units made a request for information to us at the MPF. We monitor the requests that go out to make sure they go through properly. Oftentimes, the reports would come back after an overnight trip through the system. We then made sure by checking a long log of activity printed daily to see if the request actually made it back to the unit. The old system was more like an automated E-mail system than a database, with MSS personnel constantly on guard to make sure it was working properly."

MILMOD is, by design, a much more robust and efficient system, according to Carter. The 437 MSS had to upgrade older computer sys-

tems in order to be fully prepared for the requirements of the system. While the old system consisted of requests and returned reports made at separate times, MILMOD allows MSS personnel access to the Air Force database in real time. Changes are available immediately after they are entered.

The manner in which reports can be generated from personnel data has also been improved with MILMOD. In the old system, if a unit wanted a report on how many personnel assigned were 5-levels, they made a request to MSS personnel for a copy of the report. However, if they requested a report not commonly needed, MSS personnel would have to go into the system and actually program a solution from scratch using a hard-to-understand interface.

"It was cumbersome to

access information we didn't already have a prepared report for," said Carter. "Going in and writing code for a report for one-time use was a hassle. With MILMOD we are able to generate much more informative reports by simply clicking on the categories we need and sorting the information in any fashion we want. It is a huge improvement."

MSS personnel are busy preparing for the formal activation of MILMOD. When it goes online, units will temporarily lose update capability to the database. All units are strongly encouraged to order all RIPs and do personnel transactions prior to the scheduled activation April 20. If actions are needed after this date, they are asked to come to the MPF to request update or RIPs. Units are scheduled to regain update capability May 1.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Spotlight

**Retirement ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Lanette Johnson today, 9:30 a.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Frank Lisenbee at 963-6846.

**Retirement ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. David Linquist March 30, 10 a.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Paul Legg at 963-5053.

**Retirement ceremony:** There will be a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Spero Thomas March 30, 10 a.m., at the base education office. A luncheon at the Charleston Club will follow at 11 a.m. All Team Charleston members are welcome. For more information, call Master Sgt. Don Leech at 963-6124 or 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Randall Ackerman at 963-6100.

**O'Malley Award:** Col. Rusty Findley, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, and his wife, Sandy, have been nominated by Air Mobility Command to compete for the Air Force General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award. The award recognizes the wing commander and spouse whose contributions to nation, Air Force and local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple in a key position.

## Around the base

**Senior NCOs:** Requests for senior NCO volunteers to be a part of military liaison teams in Estonia and the Ukraine are being taken. Those selected will work with senior officers who have had little contact with the U.S. military in the past. Nominees must possess a high level of interpersonal skills and exceptional military maturity. Tour lengths are 179 days, and are comprised of members from all branches of the military. For more information, go to [www.eucom.mil/programs/jctp/jctpmlts.htm](http://www.eucom.mil/programs/jctp/jctpmlts.htm), or call Tech. Sgt. Lisa Barkman at 963-6336.

**Spanish linguist:** Volunteers are needed to be Spanish linguists for support of Operation Dominant Chronical, Counterdrug Division. Volunteers must submit a letter including name, grade, social security number, Air Force Specialty Code, unit, security clearance, duty phone, language proficiency level and commander's endorsement to the personnel readiness function at the military personnel flight. For more information, call Senior Airman Tammy Haas, Randolph AFN, Texas, at DSN 665-2505.

**Citizenship:** All first term airmen

## Charleston Profile

### Airman 1st Class Shannon McCann 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Shannon McCann provides customer service for the 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron orderly room. She has been in the Air Force for more than two years and recently won the Diamond Sharp Award.

"I'm honored that I won," said McCann. "I try to excel at everything I do and provide the best support I can for our mission here."

McCann's day-to-day customer service duties include processing appointments, promotions, in and out processing personnel and planning ceremonies, among other things. "Every day is different," she said. "Even now, projects come up that I haven't worked on before, so I never stop learning new things."

Continuing her education is important to McCann. She attended school for two years before entering the Air Force, and she holds enough credits to be a licensed practitioner nurse.

"I have the schooling to be an LPN, but I'm not board certified yet," McCann said. "I've been thinking about pursuing my medical degree and becoming a medical officer."

McCann is currently enrolled at Trident Technical College. Her immediate goal is to obtain a Community College of the Air Force degree.

"I recommend setting goals and sticking to them," said McCann. "You have to know where you want to be in order to get there."

When McCann isn't working or studying, she said she spends her time skiing and working out.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

must become American citizens before they are eligible to reenlist. The process of obtaining citizenship can take 18-24 months. Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Turkessa Hawkins, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, is the point of contact for any airman requiring assistance. For more information, call Hawkins at 963-6375. For career questions, contact the Wing Career Assistance Advisor, Master Sgt. Matt Harless, at 963-8004.

**Easter baskets:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron Booster Club is selling Easter baskets now through Tuesday. The \$5 baskets will be delivered April 12. To order, call Paula Baker at 963-3505 or 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Celeste Rodriguez at 963-5071.

**Recycling:** Curbside recycling pick up for military housing will be Thursday, April 12 and 26.

**Women's History Month:** In honor of Women's History Month, the Charleston Club will be hosting a luncheon Thursday, 11:30 a.m. The meal will be an Italian buffet. Chief Master Sgt. Gail Hildrich, 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, will be the guest speaker for the luncheon. The buffet cost is \$5.95 for club members and \$7.95 for non-members. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Charlie Battle at 963-3655.

**Education benefits:** There will be Veterans' Educational Assistance

Program to Montgomery GI Bill conversion briefings at the base education center March 30, 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 963-4575.

**SGLI:** Military members will see an increase to \$250,000 in their Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage starting April 1. The monthly rate for the increased coverage is \$20. All members will automatically be updated to the \$250,000 coverage. Those who don't want the increased SGLI, need to fill out a SGLV Form 8286.

**Base school forum:** A school forum is scheduled for April 2, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Charleston Club. Lambs Elementary, Hunley Park Elementary, Morningside Middle, North Charleston High and Stall High Schools will be represented. Dr. Owen Bush, District 4 superintendent, and Bill Lewis, District 4 construction manager, will be in attendance to brief about construction projects for District 4. Parents will have a chance to ask questions and interact with school representatives. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Terrie Powell at 963-2202.

**Dining in:** There will be an Enlisted Dining In April 28, 6 p.m., at Nose Dock 1. The next meeting for the dining in will be April 4, 3 p.m., in the wing conference room. The plan-

ning committee is still in need of volunteers. Mr. and Madam Vice interviews will be April 3, 9-11 a.m. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. James Moody at 963-5516 or Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Lautenslager at 963-4559.

**Commander's call:** There will be an officer and civilian commander's call April 11, 9-10:30 a.m., at the base theater. There will also be an enlisted and civilian commander's call April 11, 3-4:30 p.m. All personnel are reminded to be in their seats 10 minutes prior to start time. Commander's call is a mandatory function. For more information, contact your orderly room.

**Commissary:** The Commissary will be closed April 15 in observance of Easter.

## Family Support Center

**Pre-Deployment Briefing:** Monday, April 2, 9, 16 and 23, 8 a.m., and Thursday, April 5, 12, 19 and 26, 4 p.m.

**Home Buying:** Monday, 10 a.m.-noon.

**Smooth Move:** Thursday, and April 26, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

**Positive Parenting:** Thursday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Newcomer's Tour:** April 5, 3 p.m. All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

## COMMENTARY

## About the paper

AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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## It's been a great year with Team Charleston

By Col. Rusty Findley  
437 AW commander

We're fortunate this week to have a little bit of respite from the large number of distinguished visitors. I was, however, pleased to host Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Gary Murray, commander of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency and Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services, this week. I had previously met Gen. Murray when I was at the Capstone course, and we became good friends. A special thanks to Col. Regina Aune and 2nd Lt. Greg Chapman who arranged for him to meet with the medical group staff and visit a number of areas on base.

March has been designated as Women's History Month. It's a time when we honor the contributions many great women have made in the civilian and military sector. We will celebrate this event by hosting a Women's History Month Observance Luncheon Thursday, 11:30 a.m., in the Charleston Club. The guest speaker for the luncheon is Chief Master Sgt. Gail Hildrich, 437th Communications Squadron, and her topic will be "celebrating women of courage and vision."

The 437th Services Squadron is also honoring this observance by displaying various books by and for women in the base library. Be sure to mark your calendars and come out and support these events.

April will mark National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I had the opportunity to get together with my fellow Charleston area commanders on Wednesday and sign a proclamation marking this event. The proclamation was created to promote better awareness to prevent child abuse and neglect. Child abuse is a community problem, and finding solutions depends upon involvement from everyone throughout the military and civilian communities. Everyone should become more aware of the negative effects of child abuse, promote its prevention and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment.

We have many programs through a number of base support agencies to assist parents. Individual and family counseling, along with educational classes, are available on base for parents struggling with child discipline and other stressful family issues which contribute to parent/child conflict. To get help, contact the Family Advocacy Office at 963-6972 or the Counseling and Guidance Center at 963-6852.

Last week, the base lost e-mail service as a result of a corrupted database. As many of you know, Charleston AFB led the Air Force and Air Mobility Command when we moved our e-mail service to the headquarters in November and December. As with any change, there are going to be a few bumps in the road ahead. In this case, we lost e-mails from March 12 through March 15. We'll continue to work with our headquarters as we iron out the kinks, but we appreciate your support and patience as we lead the way for the Air Force.

Kudos to our firefighters and security forces for their response to a fire in base housing on South O'Neal Thursday. They were on-scene in about two minutes and had the fire extinguished in about an hour and a half. I hate the fact that we lost another house to fire, but was pleased to see our true professionals on-scene in action. I saw Senior Airman Matt Coleman respond to the fire in civilian clothes, even though his wife just had a baby and he was still on leave. He truly cares, as did the 20 firefighters and three or four security forces members who responded that evening. Kudos also to Roger Schwartz, the assistant fire chief and incident commander, always seems to be on duty when these incidents occur. He does a great job in limiting damage and directing the efforts of his firefighters. Our security forces did a superb job at controlling the curious on-lookers while ensuring their safety and that of nearby residents.

Starting with the Sunday midnight meal, our people will get to dine in our new dining facility. We will cut the ribbon on Monday, and this facility will offer greater convenience for our airmen while offering a separate line for deli items. Net effect is that airmen will get their food quicker and have the opportunity to enjoy their meal with a great view.

This world-class dining facility offers greater convenience for our airmen living in the dormitories and was designed

from the ground up to offer a "state-of-the art" dining experience. It's truly a world-class facility for our world-class professionals, and it's been worth the wait! Kudos to the 437 SVS, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron and Navy Facilities Engineering Command in North Charleston for making this new dining hall a reality for the men and women of Team Charleston. Everyone is invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday, 10:30 a.m.

Besides the new dining hall, the 437 SVS Youth Center "can do" crew was recognized by the Boys and Girls Club of America as the best organization for sports, fitness and recreation in the state. As part of the honor, Youth Programs was awarded a check for \$1,000 and will compete for national honors. This win marks the fourth year in a row that CAFB's Youth Programs has been presented with an "Honors Award for Program Excellence" by the Boys and Girls Club of America. Kudos to Tim Garrahan, Ed Jones and the Youth Center staff for their strong efforts to provide enriching programs for our youth! See the article on page 2 for more details.

The 437th Comptroller Squadron is continuing its winning ways by claiming two Air Force level awards. First Lt. Delfrieda Hudson, who has since moved to another base, was selected as the 2000 Air Force Financial Services Officer of the Year. The squadron also claimed the 2000 Air Force Comptroller Special Acts and Services Award. The comptrollers received this award for their duties as paying agents for mission essential items, such as paying for landing fees for our C-17s when they travel to foreign countries. Their dedicated people flew on 33 missions ranging from 4 to 20 days at a time and more than 559 man-days to support our C-17 missions worldwide.

Other recent award winners include 2nd Lt. Catherine Barker, 437th Airlift Wing Manpower and Organization Office as the 2000 Air Mobility Command Manpower Professional Excellence Award, Company Grade Officer Category. Lt. Barker has become the base's leading expert on process improvement and has assisted about five bases in U.S. Air Forces in Europe. She is a world class professional!

I'm not sure if many of you know this, but Tuesday marked my one-year anniversary since assuming command. I've been fortunate to witness Team Charleston do great things for our Air Force and country across this past year...thank you! About a month after arriving here, I penned out three areas that I wanted to work on. Obviously, I couldn't attack these three areas alone, and I've had great support across the wing.

My first objective was to entrench a mentality of pride, professionalism and passion of who we are and what we do for our country across our entire 437 AW team. I can tell you that after a year we've come a long way in this respect, thanks to a bunch of great people.

My second objective was to take our mobility machine, through exercises and the like, and refine our skills and make sure we could meet our directives in an efficient and effective manner if tasked to go out of town. The Expeditionary Air Force dictates that we cultivate and enhance a warrior mentality and culture. Our exercise program will do this. We've made some progress here, but I still think we have a ways to go. We'll continue to practice.

My third objective was to do all that I could to enlist the support of you and others to make Charleston more of an Air Force town. I really do think we're making some inroads here; and in fact, this Thursday, we hosted the Metro Chamber of Commerce board of directors for their first meeting on the base in many years. These past months, I've given numerous speeches to the community and so have you. It's not just me, but all of us, doing a better job of telling others our story and talking about the "3P's" when we are out and about in the community. That makes a difference. We need to continue to tell our great story.

Working hard on these three specific areas has gone a long way in helping to support our primary goals of, first and foremost, safe mission accomplishment; second, taking care of our people, both personally and professionally; and third, making Charleston AFB a better place to live and work for our folks in uniform as well as our loved ones. It has been my pleasure to command the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet, and I'm impressed with our ability to "fly the flag" a little higher each day! Keep up the good work and thanks!

## FEATURE

# Will PDAs lighten the load in the information war?

**Story and photos (manipulated)**  
by Senior Airman Jason Smith  
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB, and the world for that matter, has jumped on the personal digital assistant bandwagon.

Even those who haven't used these marvels of modern technology have probably seen someone using one. They look similar to the early Star Trek communicator that Capt. Kirk would have opened and said, "Scotty, beam me up." Fortunately, modern PDAs can be used to win the information battle instead of the Klingon battle.

A PDA is basically a hand-held computer that stores and organizes information. There are two types of PDAs; the palm computer and the palm-top computer. The palm-top computer acts like a miniature laptop computer. The palm computer, which doesn't have as many options, has surpassed the palm-top in popularity because it's smaller and has a smaller price tag to go with it.

Instead of keyboards, palm computers use a touch screen with a pencil-style tool. The tool is used to touch icons on the screen and also to write using the Graffiti Alphabet.

The average PDA is 3 1/2-inches wide by 5-inches tall. The fact that it will fit in most people's palm may have something to do with the name.

A recent Air Force news release covered some of the negatives of the recent military popularity of PDAs. Things like computer security and theft can be serious issues. However, every cloud has a silver lining and for those who aren't scared of moving technology,

PDAs can open new doors of efficiency.

"If I lost mine, I'd be done," said Tech. Sgt. James Varhegyi, 1st Combat Camera Squadron. "It simplifies everything. I use it everyday."

Varhegyi said he uses his PDA much like a digital organizer. He keeps phone numbers, addresses, to do lists, calendars and contact lists on his.

"I go TDY a lot and it's a real convenience over printed copies of everything I need," continued Varhegyi. "I can put my Palm Pilot right in my pocket, and I have the option of making print-outs of the information if I need it."

While Varhegyi said he and many of his co-workers paid for their PDAs with their own money, Capt. Douglas Shahan, 1CTCS, said some of the people in combat camera management positions were issued them.

"It would be a great thing for everyone in the unit to have one," said Shahan, "but it's just not feasible with our budget. When our people are out shooting videos and photographs, it would be convenient to document everything on a Palm Pilot instead of pen and paper, but for right now, it's primarily a management tool."

Shahan, like Varhegyi, agreed PDAs take much of the hassle out of TDYs.

"Instead of carrying a backpack full of papers, I carry my Palm Pilot in my shirt pocket," said Shahan. "I have a phone book, calendar, daily schedule and contact list with me at all times."

It's easy to learn how to use PDAs, according to Shahan. He said his model works with Microsoft Outlook to transfer calendars and contacts right to his Palm Pilot with Hotsync Manager software. He simply puts his PDA in a cradle attached to his desktop computer and information is shared and transferred between the two.

Shahan said the biggest set back to using a PDA is learning the Graffiti Alphabet, a shorthand system of writing letters that PDAs can recognize.

"Some people have complained about trying to learn the Graffiti Alphabet, but I didn't have any problems," said Shahan. "After you get used to it, it's really very easy. I even find myself sometimes writing an inverted 'L' on paper when I mean to write a 'T.'"

PDAs come in all different models and price ranges. The



PDAs can weigh as little as six ounces and store up to 32MB of information from a desktop computer.

average price can be anywhere from \$100-500, depending on options.

"The ones with black and white screens and less options are usually the cheapest," said Ron Desautels, 437th Logistics Group Network Office. "They weigh between six and nine ounces, and there are even ones that you can hook headphones to and play music."

Desautels said he knows of at least five leaders in the LG who use PDAs on a day-to-day basis which his office provides technical support for.

"Everyone seems to love them for the most part," he said. "We've had some sync problems, but we usually get on the manufacture's website and download the latest software."

"The ones we work on have infrared so you can transfer files and send messages across the room," continued Desautels. "That would probably come in handy if you were at a really boring meeting."

One of the five LG leaders who Desautels was referring to is Maj.

Herbert Phillips, 437th Maintenance Squadron commander.

"I started using mine back in 1999 at the suggestion of my then first sergeant, Bruce Blodgett," said Phillips. "I primarily use it for my calendar and e-mail as it synchronizes automatically with all Microsoft Outlook functions. I also use it to carry large rosters, like my alpha roster."

Phillips said for him, a PDA is invaluable because of his heavy e-mail workload, a calendar that changes by the minute and a requirement to have a roster of assigned personnel. However, he doesn't think all Team Charleston members need PDAs.

"PDAs are great little machines," said Phillips, "but not applicable to everyone."

Like any major political question, there are proponents and opponents of PDAs. Whether leading a trash detail at the First Term Airmen's Center, or leading an intergalactic war aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise, until the Air Force makes a direct policy about PDAs, their use will continue to be a personal decision.



PDAs take commands from a pencil-style tool on a touch screen.





MAGNOLIA PLACE DINING FACILITY

## *On the Menu*



Magnolia Place dining facility closed its doors for good after dinner Sunday. The new dining facility will open Monday. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has extended its facilities hours to better serve meal cardholders during the dining hall transition. AAFES facilities will be open as follows: Burger King; Today, 6 a.m.-8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Anthony's Pizza; Today and Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Robin Hood and Frank's Franks; Today and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Monday

**Lunch:** Cream of broccoli soup, baked fish, baked chicken, beef stew, rice pilaf, parsley-buttered potatoes, green beans, carrots, peas, chicken gravy

**Dinner:** Roast pork, veal parmesan, egg noodles, mashed potatoes, fried okra, cauliflower, mixed vegetables

### Tuesday

**Lunch:** Tomato vegetable soup, pork steaks, chicken a la king, lasagna, steamed rice, potatoes, lima beans, spinach, stewed tomatoes, cream gravy

**Dinner:** Chili macaroni, chicken enchiladas, spanish rice, oven-brown potatoes, mexican corn, squash, bean combo

### Wednesday

**Lunch:** Cream of chicken soup, chicken adobo, grilled pork chops, meat loaf, potato wedges, rice, broccoli, succotash, beans, gravy, cheese sauce

**Dinner:** Roast beef, spaghetti with meat sauce, oven-glo potatoes, mashed potatoes, asparagus, corn-on-the-cob, cauliflower combo, garlic toast

### Thursday-Mexican meal

**Lunch:** Mexican onion soup, chicken fajitas, burritos, tacos, spanish rice, refried beans, mexican corn, squash, chili gravy, mexican corn bread

**Dinner:** Turkey nuggets, beef stew, steamed rice, oven-brown potatoes, broccoli combo, wax beans, lima beans, brown gravy



*Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith*

### In the line of fire

The house of Staff Sgt. Michael Stephens, 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, at 1814B South O'Neal Avenue, was severely damaged during a fire March 15. The cause of the fire is under investigation. This was the second fire in base housing in a month.

## Chapel schedule



**107 Arthur Drive**

**Office hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**Phone:** 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

### **Catholic Services**

**Saturday** -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

**Sunday** -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

**Weekdays** -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

### **Protestant Services**

**Sunday** -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

**Thursday** -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

**Buddhist:** Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405.

**Orthodox:** Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

**Jewish:** Call Jewish Lay Leader: Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Winner at 963-2102.

**Islamic:** Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

## Movie schedule

### **Admission prices:**

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.

**Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.**

**Today, 7:30 p.m.**

***"Antitrust"* – Ryan Phillippe**

When a young computer whiz is wooed by a huge Silicon Valley company, he soon discovers that his boss has rather nefarious ways around antitrust complaints. **(PG-13) 108 minutes**

**Saturday, 7:30 p.m.**

***"Finding Forrester"* – Sean Connery**

Known as the neighborhood recluse, silver-haired Forrester is a man whose mystery and eccentricity border on the mythical. When Jamal leaves behind his backpack full of writings, together they learn that family isn't always what you're born with; sometimes it's the people you find and sometimes it's the people who find you. **(PG-13) 137 minutes**

**March 30, 7:30 p.m.**

***"The Wedding Planner"* – Jennifer Lopez**

A busy wedding planner realizes that she spends so much time organizing other people's romances by way of their weddings, that she doesn't spend the time to think about her own love life. **(PG-13) 100 minutes**

**March 31, 7:30 p.m.**

***"Sweet November"* – Keanu Reeves**



# Fitness & Sports

## Sports line

Golf tournament: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Support Group Golf Tournament will be held today at Wrenwoods Golf Course. Check in begins at 7:30 a.m., and the tournament starts at 8:30 a.m. The format for the tournament is captain's choice. The \$20 entry fee includes range balls, a sleeve of play balls, lunch and beverages. Green and cart fees also apply as follows:

E-4 and below—\$9  
E-5 through O-3—\$12  
O-4 and above—\$13  
Cart rental—\$8

Many prizes will be awarded including golf passes, dinners and golf equipment. For more information call H.P. Bordeaux at 963-5495 or Erik Sonnenberg at 963-3505.

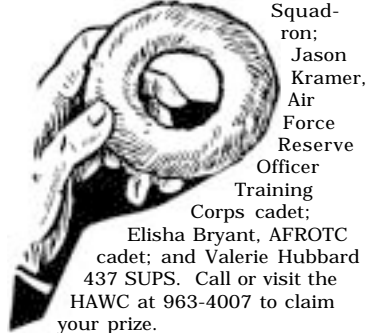
Golf tournament: The American Society of Military Comptrollers is sponsoring a golf tournament March 30 at the River Course on the Ashley on Dorchester Road. Registration starts at 11 a.m. The format for the tournament is captain's choice. Prizes will be awarded for the winners of the tournament, as well as closest to the flag and longest drive for both men and women. Two mulligans per person can be bought during the tournament. Lunch will be served after the tournament. The \$45 tournament fee includes green fees and cart rental. For more information, call Edward Lawson at 963-6421.

Golf tournament: The 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group is sponsoring a golf tournament March 30 at Wrenwoods Golf Course. Registration is 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. The tournament starts at 1 p.m. The tournament format will be captain's choice. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin and top three teams. There will be a picnic afterwards with hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda and beer. The cost to enter is \$15 plus green and cart fees. Mulligans can be bought during the tournament for \$1 each. For more information, or to sign up, call Joey Meadows at 963-6752.

## Health and Wellness Center guess the fat contest winners

The Health and Wellness Center sponsored a guessing game on March 8 at Magnolia Place dining facility. The question was: "Can you guess how many fat grams a local doughnut shop can produce in one hour?" The correct answer is 97,200.

The winners are: Philip Purdie, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron; Bruce Alexander, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron commander; Jeff Rash, 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron; Jeff Eckert, 437 AGS; James Geraghty, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron;



## 5K Run and 5K Fitness Walk "Fly the 5" — Flattest and fastest course in Charleston

Saturday, May 12, 2001, 8:30 a.m., race on the runway of Charleston Air Force Base. Tour the C-17 aircraft. The event is open to the public and there will be over \$4,000 in cash and prizes awarded.

Prize divisions are the top three male/female overall, masters (40 or older), top three military teams and male/female age group finishers; 14 and under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, and 60 and up. There will be no duplication of awards.

**Registration:** \$10 Run/ \$7 Fitness Walk

**Late registration:** \$15 Run/ \$12 Walk (t-shirts will be available while supplies last). Packet pickup is at the Fitness and Sports Center May 11. Late registration will be the day of the race 7-8:00 a.m.

Entries must be postmarked before May 4, 2001. All fees are non-refundable.

**DoD Military Team Competition:** Each base, military organization or branch of service may enter as many four-person teams as desired. However, all personnel must be active duty, reserve or DoD civilian and they can only compete for the military squadron, company or unit to which they are assigned. Each team member's application must list all other names for team on back of each registration form. Team results will be based on cross-country scoring. Individuals entering with teams will also be eligible for awards in their respective age groups.

**Course:** This is a USA Track and Field certified race. Mile markers with split timers will be located at each mile point. Water will be available at the halfway point and at the finish. Walkers will use the same course; children and/or strollers are welcome for walkers, but no pets allowed. The scoring is by Action Carolina. Results will be available at [www.437Services.com](http://www.437Services.com) or [www.geocities.com/actioncarolina](http://www.geocities.com/actioncarolina).

## Airman 'serves' Air Force in Europe

By Senior Airman Donald Church  
437 AW Public Affairs

A member of Team Charleston assisted the United States Air Forces in Europe volleyball team achieve second place in the Air North Tournament held at Karup Air Base, Denmark.

Bobby Caldwell, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, participated in the first-ever placing for a USAFE team in the tournament. This year was the first time airmen from around the Air Force were involved in the tournament. Previously the team consisted of airmen from USAFE only.

"What the USAFE team folks realized was that all of these other countries that fielded teams in the tournament were picking their members from their entire air force," said Caldwell. "So this year they decided they were unhappy with how they had been faring in the tournament and brought in the best players from the entire Air Force."

This year's team placed second overall, beaten only by the team from the German air force.

"The teams were tough," said

Caldwell. "In a lot of these countries they have semi-professional players on their teams because most of the European nations require their citizens to serve in the military at some point."

Caldwell has been on the Air Force volleyball team as well, participating over the last three years.

"The best part about all of this," said Caldwell. "Is that out of everyone in the Air Force, I get to be on a team of just ten members. For me it is an accomplishment to be recognized as one of the best."



Courtesy photo

Bobby Caldwell, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, spikes a ball during practice.

## 5K Run and 5K Walk entry form

Saturday, May 12, 2001

(Please Print Clearly)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex (M / F)

Day Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

DoD Organization/Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Print Team Members on Back of Entry Form)

Circle Event Entered: 5K Run 5K Fitness Fun Walk

Shirt Size Adult: L XL XXL

Waiver: In consideration of acceptance of this entry, I hereby waive all Claims for myself and my heirs against officials or sponsors of the 2001 Air Expo 5K Run/ 5K Fitness Walk for injury or illness that may result from my participation in this run or walk. I further state that I am in proper physical condition to participate in this event. I understand and agree that any Charleston AFB organization may subsequently use for publicity and promotional purposes my name and/or pictures of me participating in this event without any obligation or liability to me. I further understand and agree that my entry fee is non-refundable.

Signature of Participant \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent if under 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks or money order payable to: CAFB Fitness Center  
Mail to:

CAFB Fitness Center C/O 5K Run & Fun Walk  
P.O. Box 4525, Charleston AFB, SC 29404-4525